***WE ARE GOING (For Grannie Coolwell)***

***They came into the little town***

***A semi-naked band subdued and silent,***

***All that remained of their tribe.***

***They came here to the place of their old bora ground***

***Where now the many white men hurry about like ants.***

***Notice of estate agent reads: "Rubbish May Be Tipped Here".***

***Now it half covers the traces of the old bora ring.***

***They sit and are confused, they cannot say their thoughts:***

***"We are as strangers here now, but the white tribe are the strangers.***

***We belong here, we are of the old ways.***

***We are the corroboree and the bora ground,***

***We are the old sacred ceremonies, the laws of the elders.***

***We are the wonder tales of Dream Time, the tribal legends told.***

***We are the past, the hunts and the laughing games, the wandering camp fires.***

***We are the lightning-bolt over Gaphembah Hill***

***Quick and terrible,***

***And the Thunderer after him, that loud fellow.***

***We are the quiet daybreak paling the dark lagoon.***

***We are the shadow-ghosts creeping back as the camp fires burn low.***

***We are nature and the past, all the old ways***

***Gone now and scattered.***

***The scrubs are gone, the hunting and the laughter.***

***The eagle is gone, the emu and the kangaroo are gone from this place.***

***The bora ring is gone.***

***The corroboree is gone***

***And we are going."***

**Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker) born 1920, is an Aboriginal poet and vigorous spokeswoman for her people.**

**Questions**

**Write answers to questions 1 – 8.**

1. Find out what a ‘bora ground’ and ‘bora ring’ are.

2. What is a corroboree?

3. Based on the information in your first two answers, what is the impact of the sign saying ‘Rubbish May be Tipped Here’ in the poem? What do you think the poet intends to show us?

4. How do the Aboriginal people feel and behave?

5. How is repetition used in the poem? (Focus in particular on lines 9 – 20. You may refer to other parts of the poem if you wish.) What effect does it have?

6. From the description provided, what should we understand about how the Aboriginal people see themselves and their culture?

7. Which lines do you find most descriptive and moving? Which lines establish a strong sense of Aboriginal culture and the people’s connection with the land?

8. What are the last seven lines intended to show us?